

REMARKS

By the present Amendment, claims 1-9 are cancelled and claims 10-27 are added. This leaves claims 10-27 pending in the application, with claims 10 and 18 being independent.

Substitute Specification

The specification is revised to avoid objections raised in the Office Action and to eliminate grammatical and idiomatic errors in the originally presented specification. The number and nature of the changes made in the specification would render it difficult to consider the case and to arrange the papers for printing or copying. Thus, the substitute specification will facilitate processing of the application. The substitute specification includes no "new matter". Pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 608.01(q), voluntarily filed, substitute specifications under these circumstances should normally be accepted. A marked-up copy of the original specification is appended hereto.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Original claims 1 and 4-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. By the present Amendment, the originally filed claims are rewritten to avoid the language alleged to be indefinite in the Office Action. All language of the presently pending claims is now believed to be clear and definite, and provided with proper antecedent basis.

Thus, the pending claims are definite and comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and § 103

New claim 10 recites the limitations of original claims 1, 2 and 8 so as to constitute original claim 8 rewritten in independent form. New independent claim 18 combines the limitations of original claims 1, 2 and 9 so as to constitute original claim 9 rewritten in

independent form. As noted above, these claims are written to avoid the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Since such claims are indicated as being allowable on page 5 of the Office Action, claims 10 and 18, as well as the claims dependent thereon should also be allowable. The record will not be burdened with comments comparing these allowable claims with the cited patents.

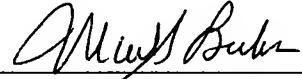
The undersigned additionally makes a record the August 28, 2006 telephone interview conducted with Examiner Muromoto in which the Examiner indicated that claim 9 should not have been rejected as being unpatentable over the cited patents as set forth on page 4 of the Office Action.

In view of the foregoing, this application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action toward that end is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 13, 2007

Roylance, Abrams, Berdo & Goodman, LLP
1300 19th Street, NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 659-9076



Mark S. Bicks
Reg. No. 28,770